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Serial No. 10/092,463

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 15, 16, and 17 are the independent claims.

The amendments to claims 1, 10, 15, 16, and 17 are supported in the specification on page 16, line 18 to page 19, line 19. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,028 to DiDomizio et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,624 to Sampson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,166,730 to Goode et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0062345 by Guedalia et al., or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0025306 by Ninokata et al. Claims 5-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DiDomizio et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,678 to Erb et al. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claims 1, 10 and 15-17 each recite: "prior to the user conducting a search, a processor starts collecting the retrieved design asset information that the user has privilege to access from the first memory" (e.g. claim 1, lines 15-19). The Office Action cited FIG. 8 in DiDomizio et al. as teaching "information/data" in the last paragraph of page 3. It is clear from FIG. 8, however, that the DiDomizio et al. does not "collect... the retrieved design asset information that the user has privilege to access from the first memory" at all, let alone "prior to the user conducting a search", but merely disclosed a search of selected terms at reference numeral 128, after the reception of a query at reference numeral 112.

In addition, Samson et al. (col 13, lines 55-60), Goode et al. (col. 10, 34-54; col 16 47-59), Guedalia et al. ([0046] – [0048], and Ninokata et al. ([0249]) were cited in the last paragraph of page 4 as addressing the deficiencies in DiDomizio et al. Each of Samson et al. (col 13, lines 55-60), Goode et al. (col. 10, 34-54; col 16 47-59) and Guedalia et al. ([0046] – [0048] merely disclosed session management function and are silent with respect to the above quoted feature of the independent claims. Ninokata et al. ([0249]) disclosed "if the user does not perform the information searching process for a predetermined period of time then the system 72 deletes the multi-session information", which implies a post-search operation (whether or not multi-session information is maintained) instead of "prior to the user conducting a search" as quoted above in the claims.

In view of the above, the Applicants submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should be

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allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 04/17/07By: [Signature]
David E. Moore
Registration No. 59,047

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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STAAS & HALSEY

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